



"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS. NEUTRAL IN NONE."

VOLUME XVII.

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STONE STANDS SUPREME.

**Chicago Is Proud of Melville E. Stone,
Her World-Renowned Journalist,
Banker and Business Man.**

**Starts with Brains Only, but Leads His
Profession at Fifty Years
of Age.**

**The Successful Career of the Founder of the
Chicago Daily News, and General Man-
ager of the Associated Press.**

**His Work for Honest Government in Chicago's
Municipal Affairs and His Continual Battle
with Official Corruption.**

Chicago, the city marvelous, has en-
listed in its newspaper field some of
the strongest intellects in the nation—
men of broad mental grasp, cosmopol-
itan ideas and notable business sagacity.
Conspicuous among those who have
given the city prestige in this direction
must be placed Melville E. Stone. His
identification with "the art preserva-
tive of a city" has been one of distinc-
tive predilection, and though he has
intermittently turned his attention to
enterprises of different nature, still,
true to the instinct said to characterize
every newspaper man, he has invariably
returned to the work, strengthened
and reinforced by the experiences
which have been his.

Mr. Stone has been a distinctly orig-
inal figure in the newspaper field not
only of Chicago, but of the entire Uni-
on, and as has been well said of him
in the connection: "His reputation has
penetrated every city where newspa-
pers are known. He is instinctively a
newspaper man, and no one of his pro-
fession is more widely known and few
more generally liked. He has won his
friends by the kindness of his nature
and his inherent, subtle force, and has
earned his enemies by his uncomprom-
ising zeal in the pursuit of any object
toward which he has directed his en-
ergies." He is at the present time pre-
sident of the Globe National Bank of
Chicago, and general manager of the
Associated Press in this city, having
attained a splendid and merited success
in temporal affairs through his own ef-
forts.

Melville E. Stone was born in the
village of Hudson, McLean County, Ill.,
on the 22d of August, 1848, being the
son of the Rev. Elijah Stone, who was
a member of the Rock River Methodist
Episcopal conference from 1848 to 1864,
in which connection he came to Chicago
in 1860, as pastor of what is now the
Centenary Church. Melville E. pur-
sued his studies in the public schools
of Chicago until he completed the high
school course, graduating in 1867. When
he attained his majority in 1869, his
father assisted him in the purchase of a
foundry and machine shop, where he
gave inception to his business career.
His property was destroyed in the great
fire of 1871, and not only did he lose all
he had accumulated, but found him-
self burdened with financial obligations
which his misfortune rendered him un-
able to meet at the time. He was left
without occupation, but had secured
some little experience in newspaper
work, and soon became a reporter on
the old Republican. When, shortly af-
terward, that paper was merged into
the Inter Ocean, he became city editor.
About eighteen months later he aided
in bringing about the consolidation of
the Post and Mail and became manag-
ing editor of the new paper, in whose
interest he repaired to Washington as
correspondent some months later.

While in the Federal capital he became
a member of the congressional staff of
the New York Herald. He returned to
Chicago and resumed his former po-
sition as managing editor, but he soon
tendered his resignation for the pur-
pose of concentrating on a new journal-
istic venture. The nucleus of the great
enterprise which brought to Mr. Stone
both success and renown was shown
forth on Christmas day, 1875, when the
first issue of the Chicago Daily News,
the original one-cent paper of the city,
made its appearance. The inception of
this enterprise, whose unparalleled suc-
cess is now a part of the history of Chi-
cago journalism, was of most modest
order. Mr. Stone's associates having
been William E. Dougherty and Percy
Meggy, who subsequently withdrew
from the partnership. The News was
originally published in the office of the

Scandinavian, which was controlled by
Victor F. Lawson, who was eventually
to become a member of the firm. In
1883 the partnership between Messrs.
Stone and Lawson expired by limita-
tion, whereupon a stock company was
formed, all the stock being retained by
the two men.

Mr. Stone remained in the business
until 1888, when, having accumulated a
fortune, he temporarily retired from
journalism. He passed two years
abroad in company with his family.
On his return home in 1890, he became
the prime factor in bringing about the
organization of the Globe National
Bank, which is recognized as one of the
solid financial institutions of the city.
He is now president of this bank. In
1893 Mr. Stone became general man-
ager of the Associated Press, in which
capacity his talents and peculiar abili-
ties as a newspaper man find full scope,
while the position is not one which
places upon him the great exactions in-
cidental to the control of a specific
newspaper enterprise. We cannot do
better at this juncture than to quote
from a recent article which touches
upon the career of Mr. Stone:

"As a good citizen and a journalist
Mr. Stone has been a considerable
force for good government in Chicago.
His newspapers were independent in
politics, and their influence was always
wisely and courageously directed. More
than one threatening municipal abuse
was corrected through their efforts,
more than one rascal in public place
brought by them to justice. It is prob-
ably fair, and in effect accurate, to say
that scarcely one of the institutions
which are illustrative of Chicago's
progress toward a broader intellectual
and philanthropic life has been with-
out substantial aid, in one way or an-
other, from him. As a newspaper own-
er and publisher he manifested what is
perhaps a wholly unparalleled interest
in purely local matters, burrowing with
incomparable persistence into every de-
partment of municipal government, de-
tecting corruption, however shrewdly
hid, and exposing culprits, whatever
their political or social standing."

In matters political Mr. Stone is dis-
tinctly independent, and he has never
been in the least an aspirant for
public office, such positions as he may
have held, such as member of the
Board of Education or treasurer of the
sanitary district, having been accorded
him with but remote reference to polit-
ical influence.

In June, 1873, Mr. Stone was made
assistant editor of the Mail, and on the
consolidation of that paper with the
Post he became managing editor.

It was while engaged in this position
that the famous Western hanging took
place, whose particulars Mr. Stone's
friends do not to this day let him for-
get. The victim was a murderer and
the crime had been particularly atro-
cious and had excited general public
horror. The correspondent "present on
the spot" at the time of the execution
had been instructed to send in a
graphic account of the event, with all
the minor details well worked in. When
his story arrived it exceeded even Mr.
Stone's hopes in picturesque verbiage,
and was "played up" prominently with
"scent" headlines. It made a sensation,
but not a circumstance to the sensa-
tion felt by Mr. Stone when he read his
contemporaries of the same date. He
then found that the murderer had been
unexpectedly reprieved and that the
hanging did not take place. His cor-
respondent later in the day verified
this statement in a laconic telegram
announcing his resignation. For once
Stone was stumped. But not for long.
In the next issue of the Post the an-
nouncement appeared that the Post



HON. MELVILLE E. STONE.
Journalist, Financier and Public Spirited Citizen.

correspondent had been forced to wit-
ness it from a distance through the
medium of a telescope. He had pre-
pared his "story" in advance and was
only waiting for the drop to fall to put
it on the wire. With his glass he had
seen the victim ascend the gallows,
had seen the noose arranged, and had
seen him suddenly disappear. He had
then, bolted for the telegraph office.
The fact was that the reprieve arrived
at that critical moment, and the sud-
den disappearance was simply the
murderer's return to his new lease of
life.

This is the general biographical his-
tory of Mr. Stone as far as he has made
it, but it has been interlined with a
personal history of an extremely inter-
esting character. He has changed little
in personal appearance in all these
years of ceaseless activity, and has ap-
parently not had time to show his age
beyond a slight suggestion of baldness.

He is the same today in his office as
he was on the old Post. A co-worker
of the old days would recognize the fa-
miliar suggestion of a nasal twang in
his sharp, clear-cut utterances and the
drawn-out "Well" with which he be-
gins a remark. He talks well and to
the point, with the limitations only that
belong to a man whose vocation is to
write. A characteristic, unfortunately
unique, is the fact that he is always
circumspect in what he says. None of
his intimates can ever remember him
to have voiced a vulgar suggestion. He
even withstood the strong temptation
given him once by a man from Milwa-
ukee. Stone's paper had published
something about this man that the Mil-
waukee considered objectionable. He
therefore wrote an angry letter to Stone
threatening to come to the office and
personally chastise him in addition to
forcing the paper to give him substan-
tial damages for libel. Stone reprinted
the letter on the editorial page, with
the comment added that if the man
from Milwaukee ventured to come to
the office he would set the office out on
him. The man from Milwaukee did
not appear.

This incident was characteristic of
Stone, whose sense of humor is lively.
He always appreciated the incident re-
lated as typifying his alertness in the
early days of the News. There was an
alarm of fire and the engines were
thundering through the street to the
scene. The usual crowd had assem-
bled at the corners, when a little news-
boy belonging to Stone's staff rushed
out and shouted: "Here you are; a full
account of the fire." Enterprise that
could get an account of a fire before it
occurred was not inconsistent to the
boy, who had learned to see incidents
not more wonderful to him accom-
plished by Stone.

A man who knows Stone well when
asked to explain his success said: "I
think his success is due chiefly to his
indefatigability, coupled with the ac-
curacy of his vision as to the outcome
of a given set of circumstances. Of
course you must add to this his fertility

of resources and his general forceful
character."

These qualities have often been ex-
emplified in Stone's career, and never
more thoroughly than in the case of
the embroiling bank president Spence-
r. This man skipped out when his
savings bank failed and disappeared
apparently as if he had been swallow-
ed up. The police gave up all hopes
of tracing him. He was a public sen-
sation for a time, but the public was
forced to accept his disappearance as
final. But only for a time. Stone de-
cided to have Spencer found. He had
no vindictive interest to have him ar-
rested and punished, for that was not
his direct business, but he decided that
the man should be seen and talked to
by one of his reporters. He started out
on this quest with only the facts the
police had worked on. He finally traced
him to Europe, and at last in a little
German village Spencer told his story
to a reporter for Stone's paper.

It was enterprise of this nature that
started the people talking about Stone
and his paper. It was enterprise, more-
over, that did not assert itself in spa-
modic outbursts, but was alive and on
top all the time. He imbued this spirit
into all the men with whom he came in
contact in his work, and, as he was a
very approachable man, he came in
contact with nearly all. He won from
them more strict obedience and conse-
quent attention to duty, down to the
smallest details, by his uniform kind-
ness and sympathy than the most se-
vere disciplinary ever evoked by
threats or fear.

An incident that will be well remem-
bered is the occasion of the visit to
Chicago of Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland.
Mr. Stone caused to be printed in the
News addresses of welcome in various
languages and a few copies of this is-
sue were printed on silk or satin. One
of these unique souvenirs was sent to
the Cleverlands.

He appreciated the value of news
with a nice accuracy possessed by few
newspaper men, and he appreciates the
value of exclusiveness quite as much.
It is said of him in the early days of his
newspaper proprietorship, when his
financial standing was still precarious,
he secured a great "scoop" over his con-
temporaries. Storey, who was then
alive, had heard in advance that Stone
had the piece of news and sent a repre-
sentative to him, offering to buy it for
\$500. The offer was refused, as was a
subsequent one of \$1,000. He is said to
have wavered somewhat when the offer
was raised an hour later to \$2,000, but
finally settled the matter by replying
that Storey did not have money enough
to buy that piece of news. Stone pub-
lished his "scoop."

His later achievements as general
manager of the Associated Press and the
masterly manner in which he has
handled that position are of recent date
and well known to the reading public.
To all who know Stone it is now simply
a question of "what next?"

Hon. Frank H. Jones, ex-First Assist-
ant Postmaster General, is a public-
spirited citizen, and one of the ablest
lawyers in the United States.

Hon. Andrew J. Ryan stands a much
better show of being the Democratic
nominee for County Judge than does
one Alexander J. Jones.

J. W. Suddard is for Hon. Wm. Lor-
mer for Congress, first, last, and all the
time.

Hon. Mark A. Hanna will be re-elec-
ted United States Senator from Ohio
with flying colors, and he may be the
next President of the United States.

Frank L. Shepard wants to be Pres-
ident of the Twelfth Ward Republican
Club. Hon. P. A. Rowe will copper
Shepard's ambition in this direction if
he lives until the election takes place.

Mr. Edward B. Elliott, the city elec-
trician, is making a magnificent record.
His ideas on electrolysis will be given
the public at an early date.

Sheriff Pease is home again after a
very enjoyable trip in the wild and
woolly west.

Superintendent Bowen of the Chicago
City Railway Co. is quoted as saying:
"I will not reinstate a solitary man,
and I will discharge every man who
joins the union. This is final and abso-
lute. There need be no further con-
ferences."

The gall and nerve of this fellow
Bowen is astounding. Allerton should
take his scalp also, while he is after
that of Rabbit Ear Wheeler.

So "Bob" Lindblom, the prominent
Swede, wants to run for Congress, does
he? Well, we advise him to smother
his ambition in this direction.

Democrats of the Sixth congressional
district won't have Bobby Lindblom or
anyone in his set for their candidate
for Congress. They say the idea is
preposterous.

Alderman Chas. M. Walker would
not under any circumstances accept a
nomination for Congress in the Sixth
district.

Thank goodness, the "Barnacle" Con-
ley has finally been dropped from the
Drainage Board pay roll. No wonder
Drainage Trustees Carter and Eckhart
are sniffling over the result.

The czar of Russia isn't a circum-
stance to czar Wheeler of Chicago.

The fellow Bannister, who hails from
St. Louis, talks like an anarchist. If
the street car men pay any attention to
the mutterings of skates of the Ban-
nister stripe, they will not command
the sympathy of the general public.

PARENTS PAY THE PRICE.

**School Books Pushed by Pliable
Pedagogues Who Are Out
for the Stuff.**

**Book Agents Thrown Down by Board of
Education Sell Their Books by
Bribing Teachers.**

**Parents Pay Pretty Prices Because School
Teachers Have Their Hands
Behind Them.**

**K. G. Schmidt Builds the First Vaults in North-
west Chicago—Sketch of a Great
Business Career.**

Much complaint is frequently made
by the patron and pupil on account of
the cost of school books. This cost is
very often unnecessarily increased by
the principals and teachers requiring
books to be procured by the children
that have not been prescribed by the
Board of Education.

The causes leading up to this condi-
tion vary in different cases. Many times
an agent who has not succeeded in hav-
ing his books properly placed before
the Board of Education visits the teach-
ers and interests them, and the teach-
er in a quiet way suggests that this
would be a very good book for the chil-
dren to have. When one or two pupils
have bought the book, others think they
ought to have it in order to be up with
the others, and in this way an extra
dollar or two is added to the cost on ac-
count of the suggestion of this teacher.

Another book has received considera-
ble commendation and favorable talk
on the part of teachers and pupils, and
is placed in the little stores of the neigh-
borhood and dealers are given special
discounts to get it started in the
schools, and in this way they work
through teachers and pupils and get
them to procure unnecessary books.

The third and perhaps the most seri-
ous cause is the interest which school
officers, superintendents and teachers
may have in certain books that they
have made, or caused to be made, and
of which they are either directly or in-
directly the authors. These books are
crowded into the schools in a quiet way
in order to first create a demand for the
book, and thus almost force the Board
of Education to adopt the same.

When Mr. Chas. Thornton, the pres-
ent Corporation Counsel of this city,
was a member of the School Board, he
called attention to a very important
law, and either had the books eliminat-
ed or the persons interested in the same
gave up their entire copyright in order
to correct this particular evil. As this
matter seems to be of great importance
to our public schools, we desire to call
special attention to the following pro-
vision of the Constitution of the State
of Illinois, article 8, paragraph 4, which
reads as follows:

"No teacher, State, county, township
or district school officer shall be inter-
ested in the sale, proceeds or profits of
any book, apparatus or furniture used
or to be used in any school in this State,
with which such officer or teacher may
be connected, under such penalties as
may be provided by the General As-
sembly."

Would it not be well for our Board
of Education to see that the children
are properly protected from being re-
quired to buy school books not author-
ized by the board?

The statement so often made by
many of our best known business men
that Mr. K. G. Schmidt, the great
brewer, banker, and safety vault own-
er, "was never known to do anything
by halves," has again been proven true.
For this sterling citizen and solid busi-
ness man has filled the hearts of his
old neighbors and the merchants of the
North and Northwest Sides with pride
by the enterprise born within him, and
in this instance demonstrated by the
erection of the finest and most substan-
tial structure in Northwest Chicago,
located at 300 Clybourn avenue, north-
west corner of North avenue, and
known as the North Chicago Safety
Deposit Vaults. These vaults are the
finest of their kind in the United
States, and Messrs. K. G. Schmidt &
Son are entitled to great praise, and it

is not surprising that they have been
receiving the congratulations of the
public at large since the recent open-
ing of their splendidly equipped safe-
ty deposit vaults. The location of these
vaults is very convenient for both the
residents of the North and Northwest
Sides, and Mr. Schmidt said yesterday:
"We are greatly pleased to welcome
the public and show them through our
establishment, so that they can see for
themselves that we have not spared
any expense in making the depository
one of the safest and as good and con-
venient in every respect as the best
vault in Chicago or the West." There
are 1,000 boxes in these handsome and
spacious vaults. On leaving the office,
and passing over the matted marble
stairway, you reach the waiting-room,
which is separated by solid iron bars.
After passing the entrance, you reach
a hallway, on both sides of which are
writing rooms for the use of the pa-
trons. You will then face three solid
steel doors, one of them having a time
lock, so that you cannot enter the
vault before a certain hour. The walls
are made of iron plates covered with
cement, and are connected with an
automatic, self-acting burglar alarm,
and the same protection is used in case
of fire. The yearly rental of a box is
only \$3, thereby giving the people of
small means the advantage of using
the safety deposit vaults.

Mr. James W. Donnell, secretary of
the Bankers' Electric Protective Com-
pany, who equipped the vaults with their
automatic electric burglar alarm
system, said this week to a representa-
tive of The Eagle: "Messrs. K. G.
Schmidt & Son's safety deposit vaults
are the only vaults in Chicago equipped
with our burglar alarm. The accumu-
lation of wealth necessitates a consid-
erable expenditure for means of pro-
tection against burglary. The burglar,
it is admitted, is skillful, daring and
progressive. Ingenuity and mechanical
skill have constantly endeavored to
produce impregnable safes and
vaults. Electricity and compound ex-
plosives furnish the man of criminal in-
clination with effective means to suc-
cessfully practice his profession, and it
is a matter of record that bank burglars
have often demonstrated how success-
fully they can use explosives, and have,
lately, boldly and publicly declared
themselves possessed of the knowledge
of electricity as a mode of attack. Safes
and vaults which once defied success-
ful attack are now insecure from bur-
glars. A carbon stick, properly connect-
ed to a source of electrical energy, is
the most convincing proof of this state-
ment."

It is useless to depend upon safes or
vaults alone, as they are not now and
never can be made to furnish security
against so formidable a method of at-
tack. Modern scientific security de-
mands the association of safes and
vaults with some additional and infal-
lible means of fortification against ac-
cess to their contents by burglars. We
employ the same agent for protection
of safes and vaults that can be used
for their destruction.

"Electricity is made ever vigilant
guardian that defies approach and is
always ready to sound a call of alarm,
thus defeating the most skillfully laid
plans of the robber. This electrical
guardian is omnipresent and invincibil-
e. It is but natural and just that the
portion of the public which entrusts its
funds and valuables to banks and other
custodians should have a direct inter-
est in the provisions made for their
safe keeping. It is our aim to antici-
pate the burglar and acquaint custo-
dians of the public's wealth with the
existing dangers, in order that they
may equip themselves with the neces-